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Florida PoliceChiefs Association

Quality Law Enforcement for the Sunshine State

November 18, 2003

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW, Room 8-B201
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Support for the 800 MHz "Consensus Plan" to eliminate interference by First Responders

Dear Chairman Powell:

The Florida Police Chiefs Association is extremely concerned about the ever-increasing interference experienced in the 800 MHz band of the radio spectrum used by public safety's first responders from wireless communications systems. This is a problem that we have experienced not only within the State of Florida but also in more than half of the other states. Moreover, we are aware that it has been estimated that public safety agencies will experience interference at more than 350 locations this year – **the highest single-year total to date**. This increase in the interruption of mission critical communications during our responses to emergencies is alarming.

The Florida Police Chiefs Association supports the 800 MHz "Consensus Plan" proposal as we feel that it is a comprehensive and fully funded solution which will resolve a critical problem affecting our ability to render emergency services in the most effective and efficient manner. We believe that the proposal for the realignment of the spectrum is the best solution to the current situation and are aware that it has received wide support by all of the major public safety organizations

Unfortunately, absent your intervention, the risks associated with this problem will continue to grow. Needless to say, this is an issue of utmost concern for the public safety community and the public we serve. Therefore, we strongly urge you to consider realignment of the 800 MHz spectrum and full implementation of the 800 MHz "Consensus Plan." We thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Harold M. Robbins
Executive Director

CC: Chief Paul Rumbley, President
Chief Marshal Gage, Ad-Hoc Committee Chair
Ret. Chief Harlen R. McEwen